

### THESE ARE THE PALESTINIANS

By :  
BASEM SIRHAN

Prominent Zionist leaders are fond of saying that Palestine and the Palestinian people never existed; that before the advent of Jewish immigration to the area, the Arab population was comprised of scattered bedouin tribes, impoverished peasants, and a few city-dwelling merchants. This distortion of history is deliberate, and fully understandable in light of the Zionists' need to justify and otherwise conceal their ruthless expulsion and dispossession of the Palestinian people. The fact is that the Palestinian Arab population has continued to inhabit the area now under Zionist occupation for more than a thousand years, and like other countries of the area was in the midst of profound internal developments in the social, cultural and political spheres before the institution of the Zionist state brought these developments to an abrupt halt in 1948. This short paper describes the recent history of the Palestinian people, and demonstrates how they have maintained their unique social and cultural identity in the face of expulsion, dispersion, and other countless hardships, and how their political integration has been maintained and ultimately has been heightened over the past twenty-six years.

#### THE PAST :

The Arab people have composed the major part of the population in Palestine since the eighth Century A.D. After centuries of Ottoman rule, the wave of nationalism which swept Europe reached the Arab world by the mid-nineteenth century. By 1916 the Arab peoples were actively striving for their independence and sovereignty from Ottoman domination. Their immediate aspirations were disappointed with the end of the First World War; rather than achieving the independence which many had expected, they fell under European domination.

For the Arabs of Palestine, this new period held out a dual

challenge to their nationalist movement : British occupation and Zionist settlement. Ultimately, it was the latter of these two obstacles which was the cause of their cruellest oppression.

During the period of the British Mandate (1919-1948), Palestinian society remained largely rural, with the bulk of its inhabitants peasant cultivators growing subsistence crops. Yet the country included a number of towns with populations as high as 60,000. There was a slow but continuous trend towards urbanization and the expansion of a market economy. The society was comparatively homogeneous and tightly-knit, with the growing nationalist organizations linking the different villages to the urban centers. In 1922, with the Arab population, both Christian and Muslim, comprising 88% of the population (Jews and others amounted

to 11%) and 98% of the land Arab-owned, Palestine was unquestionably an integral part of

the larger Arab nation. The language, customs, and traditions of Palestine were fully Arab, while local variations in dialect, dress, and particularly rural culture gave Palestine a distinctive and unique place among the other Arab people.

At the same time, this period witnessed considerable economic activity, particularly in the agricultural sector, which was favored by large areas of fertile and productive land. Some figures will serve to indicate the growth of the economy during the Mandate :

— Between 1928 and 1942 the winter wheat crop of Arab cultivators grew from 118,978 tons to 234,674 tons. In the same period, the summer crop grew from 83,888 tons to 488,452 tons.

— In 1928 15,678 tons of melons were produced; in 1945 the figure stood at 142,827.

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"The Green Hand" original painting by the Arab Palestinian Artist Ismael Shamout.

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## ANOTHER MAJOR OPERATION

# Commandos blast Jerusalem building

DAMASCUS, — Palestinian commandos said today a large number of Israelis were killed or wounded when explosive and incendiary charges they planted in an apartment building housing intelligence officers went off in Jerusalem.



The Palestine news agency (WAFA) quoted a commando spokesman as saying the building was destroyed.

As usual, the spokesman did not identify the commando group which carried out the operation.

The agency said the operation and a rocket attack

on the Israeli parliament and government offices in Jerusalem proved the commandos could "reach the heart of occupied Palestine despite all security measures taken by the enemy."

The commandos would "step up their attacks on the Zionist enemy deep in occupied Palestine," the agency added.

The commando spokesman

also reported that commandos set off explosive charges in some commercial stores at Herzlia, near Tel Aviv.

Fire destroyed contents of the stores, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a police spokesman in Jerusalem said four Israelis were wounded Sunday when several paint cans filled with 22 pounds of gunpowder exploded in an apartment building in Jerusalem.

The blast went off on the second floor of an apartment building and started a fire which severely burned a 37-year-old resident.

A police spokesman said 30 suspects had been detained.

An eye witness said one woman threw her two children out of her second floor window, believing that Arab commandos had attacked the building. Neither of the children was hurt.

The bombing came 24 hours after two Katyusha rockets slammed into an empty field between the parliament building and an Israeli in the heart of the Holy City. Shrapnel from the rockets shattered several windows and damaged a few houses.

The weekend commandos operations were the most serious in several months of Arab bombings in Jerusalem where commando bomb blasts go off at an average of one a week.

## Kfar Shouba, resistance symbol

# South Lebanese villages perishing under relentless Israeli attacks

BY EDWARD CODY

RASHIYA AL-FOUKHAR, LEBANON,

Villagers here tell how Atala Issa walked into his field after a stray cow recently and was blown up by a mine they said was planted by the Israelis following a Palestinian commando raid on Maalot a year ago.

The 50-year-old peasant died in a split second, leaving his widow with only a few limbs to bury, they said.

Rashiya Al-Foukhar and other villages in the region are perishing more slowly — but just as surely — under relentless Israeli attacks against Palestinian commandos in these southern Lebanese hills.

Air raids that exploded over the rocky mountainsides a year ago on May 16, in retaliation for Maalot in Israel the day before helped start a deadly string of eye-for-eye terror between Palestinian commandos and Israelis.

"It's a slow death," said George Awad, a 45-year-old merchant and the mayor of Rashiya Al-Foukhar. "We did not want the war. But like it or not, we're in the middle of it".

The children of Rashiya Al-Foukhar used to fill three schools. Now they number only

14. Most families have fled, shrinking the population of Awad's hillside from 3,500 to several hundred.

### KFAR SHOUBA

The Israelis came in helicopters to Kfar Shouba, a village of about 7,000 residents a few minutes up the mountain from Rashiya Al-Foukhar. They gave the hill folk 24 hours to clear out.

After a rain of artillery, the troops helicoptered in with explosives. For two days they blasted. Four villagers were injured and four Palestinian commandos were killed.

When the Israelis left and the villagers returned, they found only rubble where their

homes had been. No one stayed.

Some five months later, Kfar Shouba is populated only by a contingent of Palestinian commandos who sleep in shifts with their submachine guns by their side.

"We are here just to show the Israelis they can't drive us all out", said a Palestinian commando leader, camping in the remains of blown-out home, just to establish our presence.

"We will win in the end", he proclaimed in a raw Palestinian accent. "Just like the Vietnamese beat the American imperialists we will win and get back our country".

"Let us make Kfar Shouba a symbol of the rise of South Lebanon", someone had scrawled on what was left of a grocery store wall.

The Lebanese government has announced plans to rebuild the village. But nothing has been done so far.

Even in the regional capital of Sidon, about 25 miles south of Beirut, many residents still cringe when Israeli jets overhead crash through the sound barrier. They say the planes pass over almost every day.

An Israeli bombing raid a year ago on May 16 on the Mediterranean port's Ein El-Helwah Palestinian refugee camp left 40 Palestinians and eight Lebanese dead.



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# 'Fight until final victory'

'THE DAILY NEWS'

KUWAIT — "I have full faith in the determination of the Palestinian people to fight the Israeli enemy till final liberation", Yasser Arafat said. The Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is on a short visit to Kuwait.

## MAJOR SPEECHES:

Yasser Arafat delivered two major speeches one at the PLO head office, the other at the office of the National Liberation Movement (Fateh) — to warm applause.

In both speeches Arafat asserted that the PLO would continue to fight the Israelis who continue to act in a most barbaric and savage way against the Arab people of Palestine.

## KISSINGER

He reviewed and evaluated the various attempts by Dr. Henry Kissinger, and forcibly attacked Kissinger's attempts to liquidate the Palestinian presence and their right to self-determination.

## TRAGIC LOSS

He explored the situation in the Middle East after the assassination of the late King

Faisal and described his loss as a major setback for the Palestine problem. But he expressed his confidence that the new Saudi monarch would continue giving the support of Saudi Arabia to the Palestinians.

## ACCUSES U.S.:

Chairman Abu Ammar accused the United States of attempting to break the Arab unity as this unity has proved their backbone in the struggle against Israel. Arafat called strongly on all Arabs to preserve the unity they had won in the October War in which the blood of martyrs was shed.

## STRUGGLE RECOGNISED:

He said that the Palestinian struggle is now recognised at the international level and that such an achievement would not have been possible without the valuable sacrifices of the Palestinian freedom fight-

ers and the support of the Arab nation. Yasser Arafat added that these sacrifices should always be kept in mind.

## HAILS FRIENDSHIP:

The Palestinian leader hailed the friendship and support of all peace loving nations in the world, especially the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

## ONLY SOLUTION:

The PLO leader confirmed that his organisation would always be interested in any gains brought about as a reward of struggle, but would never agree to put down its arms before final victory was achieved. He said that the only solution always submitted by the PLO was that of a democratic state in which there would be equal rights for all, Arabs and Jews who accepted to live in peace.



## Bribery circular

### JERUSALEM,

— Israeli Justice Minister Haim Zadok has circulated among cabinet ministers a draft law which would make gifts to public servants the property of the state, cabinet sources said here.

The sources said the proposal would cover all gifts to civil servants, including diplomatic personnel serving abroad, but not those of minor value which could be kept for sentimental reasons.

## ISRAELI BUS ABLAZE

### JERUSALEM,

— Arab villagers set an Israeli bus ablaze Saturday in the occupied Jordanian West Bank, the state radio reported.

The Arabs poured gasoline on the parked bus in the West Bank city of Ramallah while the driver and passengers were eating in a nearby cafe, the radio said. There were no injuries, but the inside of the bus was destroyed, the radio reported.

Police sealed off the center of the town and arrested several suspects, the broadcast added.

## U.S. INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL DECLINING

### TEL AVIV,

— American investments in Israeli industries declined by 70 per cent last year compared to 1973, the afternoon newspaper Maariv said.

Private investments from the U.S. amounted to 152 million dollars in 1973 but only 45 million dollars in 1974, the paper said.

Maariv quoted investment centre sources as saying the reduction in American investments was due both to the economic situation in the U.S. and the effects of the Arab boycott.

## SPY SENTENCED TO DEATH IN CAIRO

CAIRO, May 10, (AP) — Ragab Abdel Ati, Manager of a Marine Service Company, has been sentenced to death on charges of spying for Israel, the mass circulation 'Ak-hbar El Youm' reported.

The newspaper said Abdel Ati visited Israel five time prior to his arrest last January.

"We warn foreign tourists against visiting occupied Palestine."

Palestine news agency



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— In 1939 the two Arab banks had total deposits of £P. 379,000. By 1945 this figure had grown to £P. 6,971,000. During the same period Arab banks increased their capital by about 50%.

— Between 1931 and 1945 the number of producing olive trees had nearly doubled from 4,000,000 at the earlier date.

— Between 1931 and 1945 the number of dunums devoted to citrus production grew from 45,000 to approximately 133,000.

(Further information in this respect can be found in the *Survey of Palestine*, vol. 2, 1946, submitted by the Government of Palestine to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry in December 1945 and January 1946.)

Throughout the Mandatory period, the Palestinian national identity developed slowly but continuously. A number of factors were responsible for furthering its development, the most important of which were :

1) The emergence and spread of an adequate secondary school system, which increased the scope and level of self-awareness and national consciousness among Palestinian Arabs.

2) The establishment of numerous voluntary associations, sometimes sponsored by the nationalist organization. These included social and literary clubs, most of which were situated in the larger towns and cities of



Palestine. Typically the clubs would include a literary committee, a political committee, an athletics committee, and a functioning library. Most made provision for student membership. Naturally, the members were almost solely from the educated elite, most of whom were Christian but with a large proportion of Muslims. In general, these clubs devoted themselves to the discussion of Arab culture and history, the present problems besetting the Arab peoples, economic and social problems in Palestine, as well as local issues. Pan-Arab in ideology, they became important foci of nationalist political sentiment.

3) The external threat, both Zionist and British. From as early as 1921, the Palestinian Arabs crystallized into nationwide organizations to oppose these threats to their national

identity. The struggle which followed helped define and develop Palestinian political consciousness and collective ideology. These were best expressed in a maturing literature and press, which reflected the unified aspirations, frustrations, and national will of all Arab Palestinians.

From the beginning of the political struggle, Palestinian Arabs aimed at achieving three basic goals which remained fixed throughout

The independence of Palestine, the end of Zionist immigration into the country, and the prohibition of land transfers from Arabs to Jews (the latter being especially difficult because of British Mandatory regulation and the bias of many British officials towards Zionist goals).

While the political struggle continued, Palestinian society though still largely rural and illiterate, enjoyed increasing prosperity. The standard of living for the Arab population was fairly high, with a per capita income of \$ 126.60 in 1936. By 1945 it had grown to \$ 315.80, a figure which is all the more impressive when compared with others areas of the Middle East and the Third World at that time. Even more striking is the fact that in 1973 the per capita income of Palestinians resident throughout the area, including Israel, was only \$ 273, concrete testimony to just how much the Palestinians have lost economically since 1948.

The year 1948 marked the temporary end of Palestinian aspirations for independence and sovereignty. With direct and indirect assistance of foreign powers, the Zionists succeeded in usurping 80% of Palestinian land, uprooting 70% of the population (1 million out of 1,400,000), and effectively dismantling Palestinian society. Thus the political conditions were achieved for a Jewish majority in Palestine. The Arab-Jewish ratio declined steadily from 13:1 in 1914, to slightly better than 2:1 in 1947, to the present ratio of 1:2. By force of arms and calculated terrorism the Zionists achieved what immigration alone could not.

### THE PRESENT :

The total population of the Palestinian people today numbers over three million persons. Approximately half continue to live under Israeli rule, the rest dispersed in several Arab countries and throughout the world. Approximately half are registered refugees living in camps and urban centers. In 1973 the demographic distribution of Palestinians was as follows :

Transjordan	—	1,000,000
West Bank	—	716,000
Gaza	—	364,000
Israel	—	400,000
Lebanon	—	300,000
Syria	—	200,000
Kuwait	—	180,000
Egypt	—	35,000
Iraq	—	18,000
Arabian Gulf	—	15,000
Libya	—	15,000
Saudia Arabia	—	20,000
U S A	—	25,000
Latin America	—	7,000
W. Germany	—	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,310,000</b>

Despite this extensive dispersion after 1948, the Palestinian people have managed to not only maintain but to actually advance their socio-economic position vis-a-vis the rest of the Arab world. Nothing demonstrates this fact better than their remarkable accomplishments in the educational sphere.

### EDUCATION AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE :

At the university level, by 1970 more than 50,000 Palestinians were college graduates, and another 70,000 were enrolled at universities. Secondary school enrollment numbered 600,000; between 85% and 90% of all school age children were attending elementary school. At present rates of enrollment, universal elementary education will be achieved by 1980. At the secondary level 30% of children at secondary school level are enrolled. For all school-age children, total enrollment has reached 52% for boys and 48% for girls, in itself a remarkable achievement, particularly given the long tradition of superior education for males in the Arab world. Even more striking is the fact that as recently as 1950 only 2% of school-age girls were enrolled; this increased to 10% in 1955 and 26% in 1960. The overall effect of this emphasis on education has been to produce a ratio of Palestinian university students and high-level manpower to total population which is higher than any other Arab country, Egypt and Lebanon included. In 1970, Palestinian university graduates were distributed as follows :

61% in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

36.1% in the Sciences, engineering, agriculture, and medicine.

2.6% in other disciplines.

Interestingly, 10.1% of all Palestinian graduates have stu-



died medicine, a rate which puts them at the top for medicine for the whole Middle East, including Israel. A recent sample of 10,000 Palestinian graduates showed that together they had published 698 scientific papers and 128 books in all fields of specialization. 18% had received terminal degrees higher than the B.A. or B.S., 692 had M.A.'s, and 986 had Ph.D.'s or M.D.'s.

The unusual ability of Palestinians to acquire higher education is the result of several factors, the most important of which have a large degree of self-help and familial cooperation. Important too has been the opening up of universities in a number of Arab countries to Palestinians with proper qualifications for very moderate fees or entirely free of charge, as well as some UNRWA scholarship aid. Many students have, of course, won scholarships abroad from different universities.

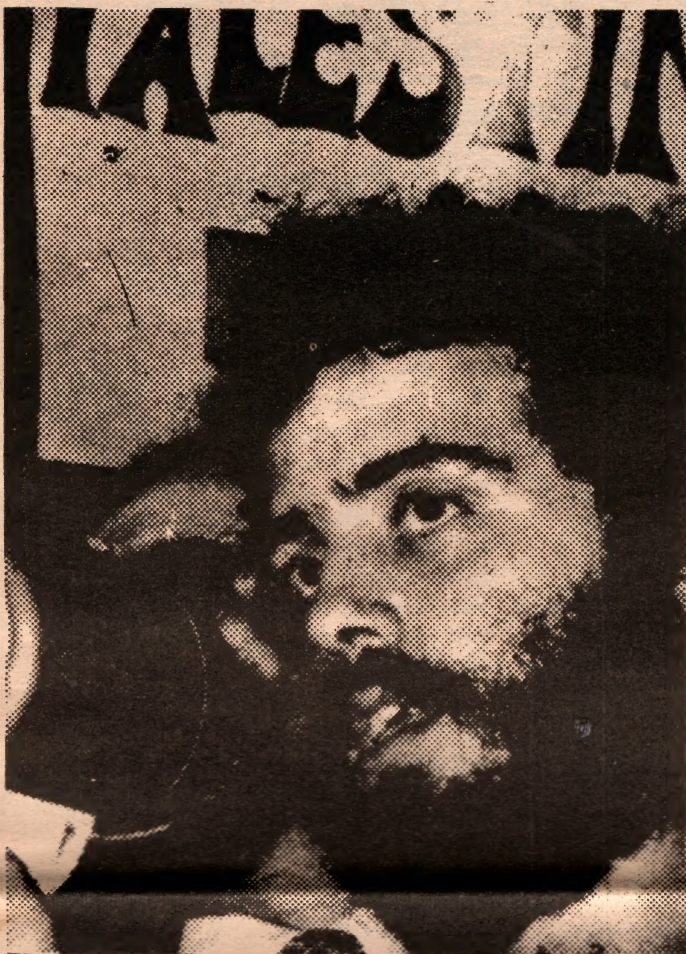
### PALESTINIAN SKILLS IN THE ARAB WORLD :

While residing in the various Arab countries Palestinian university graduates in all fields have made important contributions to the social, economic, and technological development of their host countries, actively and positively employing their knowledge, skills, and energy. The occupational distribution of Palestinian high-level manpower indicates that the four most important professions practiced are teaching, engineering, management, and medicine. At least half are teachers, 16.7% are engineers, 14.8% are managers and administrators, and 10.1% are medical doctors. Though the proportion of Palestinians among university professors has not been measured, it is undoubtedly high. The impact of Palestinian skills has also been acutely felt in the business sector of the Arab world. Palestinians are prominent in many countries in banking, accounting, and increasingly in market research and management consulting. Kuwait, Saudia Arabia, and the Gulf states have had to depend heavily on Palestinian knowhow in their urban development; Palestinian contractors and architects are numerous in those countries. Not insignificantly, in several Arab countries, skilled and unskilled Palestinians have contributed their labor in agriculture, industry, and the services.

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# Demonstration against Australia attitude towards Palestine



Israeli-born Jew, Sool Suleihi attacking Zionism.

The Australian Arabic newspaper 'Telegraph' carried a full coverage of the demonstrations and processions that marched on Sydney's main streets in support of the Palestine Cause.

The paper said, the Australian Arabs seemed to have invaded and occupied the city for two long hours carrying Palestinian flags, banners in support of Palestine amidst anti-government slogans.

Tens of thousands of Australians flanked both sides of the streets observing with respect and admiration the demonstrators calling for justice and rights.

The demonstrators walked the 1000 metres Pete Street, calmly and well disciplined unprecedented in the history of the city of Sydney. The demonstration was well organized and huge to the extent that the High Commissioner of Police admitted pride to associate with the Arabs.

At the gathering point in Chifley, chairman of the Friends of Palestine Movement, Jean Bishara addressed the throngs of demonstrators analysing the Australian demoralization, and forged facts and hoped that Australia will outdodge clean and healthy from the five disturbing diseases of unemployment, Zionism, CIA, financial inflation and Bob Hawk.

Another Arab Friend, George Peterson expressed a dissatisfaction with his government. He accused Israel of the inhuman and vicious oppression practised against the Arabs in occupied Palestine. Other speakers, were Fuad Shreidi, Palestine-Australian club member Saul Slibi and Eve Peterson.



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Lebanon provides a good example of the broad and intensive contributions the Palestinian people have made in a number of Arab countries. Since the influx of Palestinians in 1948 they have assumed a major role in the economic and cultural life of the nation. Lebanon's banking and construction sectors have benefited from the input of Palestinian skills and innovation; thousands of others have played an active role in the service sector, and others have contributed their skills to Lebanon's flourishing agricultural development. Palestinians formed the first musical orchestra in the country, and continue to provide their talents in theater, arts, and journalism.

The contribution of the Palestinian people to the nation-building of other countries has another important facet: In doing so they have demonstrated credibly and forcefully their ability to do the same, with even greater industry and commitment, in their own country in the future.

It is noteworthy that in contrast, those Palestinians who have remained under Israeli control since 1948 have not made the educational and vocational advance which would make them a potentially-significant contribution to Palestinian manpower needs. Between 1965 and 1966 only 258 Arab students were enrolled in Israeli universities and institutions of higher learning - a ratio of 88 students enrolled per 100,000 Arab population. This compares very unfavorably with the figures for Jordan (1107 per 100,000 population) and Israel as a whole (1488 per 100,000).

### THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL STRUGGLE :

It should not be necessary here to describe at length the human and material loss that the Palestinian people have had to endure over the past decades at the hands of Zionist invasion and aggression. Aside from the gross cost in human lives (more than 50,000 Palestinians have died in the struggle for their homeland), they were deprived of their national sovereignty, the social and physical integrity of their country, and huge resources in land, property, and other capital investment.

The dispersion of the Palestinian people, and the loss of their political, economic, and social rights, have not, however, led to their assimilation and dissolution as a distinct people.

This fact, expressed in their continuing national identity and national purpose — that of returning to their homes and exercising their right of self-determination and national independence in their homeland — gives lie to the pernicious assertion that they are a mere agglomeration or collection of loosely-connected individuals with no claim to nationhood. The Palestinians have, if anything, matured politically and developed an even greater level of national consciousness during their dispersion in other Arab coun-

tries. This growth of national consciousness has found its greatest expression in the military and political struggle to liberate their homeland. It is to this end that the Palestinian people have devoted their greatest energies and made their greatest sacrifices.

In the years following 1948, Palestinian national activities were at first largely subsumed in political participation in Arab political parties and political life, a natural outcome of the view that the liberation of Palestine was the duty and goal of all Arab peoples, and that ultimately its achievement can only come about as the result of collective Arab efforts. This stage of the struggle continued from approximately 1950 until 1965, when the Palestinians themselves resumed their armed struggle against Zionist occupation. As the national liberation movement gained momentum, Palestinians from throughout the Arab countries and the world flocked first to Jordan, and later Syria and Lebanon, to take part in the long-awaited struggle. This in itself constitutes the greatest triumph of the Palestinian revolution. The beginning of struggle on the political and military fronts marked a full-scale revival of national identity and the concrete manifestation of a dispersed people's hopes and ambitions for the future.

### THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REVIVAL OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE :

Today, to a greater degree than any other time in the history of Palestine, the tangible expression of national unity and purpose are clearly evident. The national literature is abundant and flourishing. More importantly, the first sovereign political body in Palestinian history has come into being — the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PLO has established a number of national unions for the unification, direction, and protection of Palestinians in a number of professions and occupations. As members of affiliated Arab and international unions they guard the rights of Palestinians everywhere. Following are the existing national unions :

The General Union of Palestinian Workers.

The General Union of Palestinian Teachers.

The General Union of Palestinian Students.

The General Union of Palestinian Lawyers.

The General Union of Palestinian Engineers.

The General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists.

At the same time, the PLO has also taken steps to put historical, political, and social research related to Palestine in national hands, with the establishment of the Palestine Research Center in 1965. The center employs forty researchers in



various fields and publishes a monthly journal describing current research. An independent counterpart, the Institute for Palestine Studies, also plays an important role in researching and disseminating information on Palestine. At the Research Center, as well as throughout the PLO as a whole, collective self-analysis and constructive self-criticism are exercised continuously.

In 1968, the PLO established a planning center, the purpose being to give direction and unity to Palestinian action in the political, social, and educational fields. In the field of education the Planning Center has had some of its greatest success. While many Palestinians attend UNRWA schools, efforts at a greater measure of Palestinian control have led to full staffing by Palestinian nationals. The P.L.O. has organized and administers its own schools in Kuwait, with 18,000 students. In Lebanon and Syria it is undertaking a number of educational projects and experiments, including a well-stocked children's library financed by middle-class Palestinians.

Financially successful Palestinians have also contributed considerable resources to help needy Palestinian university students continue their higher education. The Palestinian Student Fund, also supported by outside contributions, gives special emphasis to high level vocational training.

An important step in establishing the greatest possible degree of national self-sufficiency was realized with the establishment of an independent medical society, the Red Crescent. The society renders invaluable medical services to the Palestinian people, particularly those resident in the camps. At present it administers three well-equipped and well-staffed hospitals - two in Lebanon and one in Syria. At the same time it has established a medical clinic in each of the Palestinian camps. In 1974 the Palestinian Red Crescent was invited to attend the annual meeting of the International Red Cross in Tehran as an observer.

Finally, Palestinians have also established several small manufacturing firms producing clothes, shoes, and traditional embroidered dresses. The revenue goes directly to the support of the families and children of Palestinian martyrs, and a separate organization takes care of martyr's and prisoners-of-war's families.

These organizations and activities are the most obvious expressions of the profound national revival that the Palestinians have been experiencing in recent years. With the continued investment of the people's money, intelligence, skill, and courage, the revival will reach its final culmination in the liberation and return to the Palestinian homeland.

### THE FUTURE :

In spite of, and in a sense because of, the great national hardships experienced by the Palestinian people, they remain firmly resolved to continue their struggle for liberation, no matter what new and bitter costs will have to be paid to achieve it. Now as before, their basic national aspiration is the establishment of a democratic non-sectarian state in the land of Palestine. The remarkable persistence, continuity, and growth of a positive national identity, concomitant with the development and expansion of national institutions at every level of Palestinian life is the clearest evidence of the irrepressible growth of the Palestinian revolution.

The Palestinian revolution is firmly dedicated to the ultimate control and administration of any part of the country from which the control of the Zionist occupiers is removed, forcibly or otherwise. Yet the Palestinian people clearly realize that their desire for peace and justice in their homeland cannot be won by perpetrating on the Jews the same injustices they have caused the Palestinians to suffer. Though Zionist spokesmen have tried to characterize the official Palestinian attitude to the Jewish population of Israel as genocidal, nothing

" continued on page 8"



## ARAB-SPANISH BANK ESTABLISHED

**MADRID,** — The Arab-Spanish bank was set up here today, clearing the way for heavy Arab investments in Spain.

The Libyan Foreign Bank and the Kuwait Foreign trading Contracting and Investment Company account for 60 per cent of the bank's capital of 750 million pesetas (six million sterling) and reserves of the same amount.

The rest of the capital comes from the Spanish State Institute of Official Credit, the state holding company I.N.I. and private local banks.

The Spanish cabinet authorised the establishment of the bank last January.

## GROMYKO GIVES LUNCHEON TO ARAFAT

**MOSCOW,** — Yasir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was back in Moscow Sunday for a lunch with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Tass reported.

The Soviet news agency said Gromyko gave a lunch for Arafat, who came to Moscow following visits by the foreign ministers of Egypt and Syria.

Arafat attended the Moscow May Day parade and then spent two days traveling in the southern part of the country.

Tass said Arafat met with Boris Ponomarev, Communist Party Secretary in charge of the International Department, for a discussion of the Middle East and the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East.



**MOSCOW** — Andrei Gromyko, member of Politbureau of CPSU Central Committee, Soviet Foreign Minister received Wednesday the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yassar Arafat. Andrei Gromyko (first from right) and Yassar Arafat (second from left) seen during meeting.

On April 10th a goodly portion of Toronto's bourgeoisie hosted Menachem Beigin, a Zionist hooligan and sometime minister in various Israeli governments. Beigin was the leader of the Irgun Tzvai Leumi, a right-wing Zionist terrorist organization during the 1936-1948 period in Palestine. One of the most notable "achievements" of the organization was the 1948 slaughter of 256 unarmed Palestinians at the village of Dir Yassir near Jerusalem. This massacre, said Beigin in his book *Revolt*, "...was not only justified but there would not have been a state of Israel without the victory at Dir Yassir." All Beigin's subsequent activities to this day have been completely consistent with the "victory" at Dir Yassir. He is in fact a racist, a warmonger and an imperialist stooge. His visit and speech in Toronto coincided with the 27th anniversary of the Dir Yassir massacre. Beigin spoke at a dinner and Israel bond rally whose precise time and location was a well, but insufficiently guarded secret. The only "requirement" for finding out the location and/or attending this function was the purchase of the \$1000 Israeli war bond.

What was described by its organizers as a "well defended informational picket" was mounted in front of the hall where this gathering of stuffed bourgeoisie was being held. The picket, about 60 strong, was made up of delegations of militants from the Arab Palestine Association, the Revolutionary Marxist Group, the Canadian Committee of the International Spartacist Tendency, the Communist Party of Canada (M-L), the League of Non-Zionist Jews, and a small number of unaffiliated sympathizers of the action.

The well-disciplined picket was ably marshalled by a combined force of RMG and CCIST militants. Also in attendance at the scene were about 100 of Toronto's finest with an unreported number of reserves in the neighbourhood and small delegations (in mufti of course) of the local red squad and RCMP. There was also a small delegation from the extreme rightist Jewish Defense League, composed of a half-dozen or so polished young

thugs trying hard to look macho and one dishevelled gorilla. The central slogan of these swine was "Down with Arabs", a slogan unmistakably reminiscent of the Nazi slogan, "Down with Jews". This is a strange slogan for an organization supposedly committed to the fight against anti-semitism.

The most popular chant among the revolutionaries in attendance and the unified slogan of the action was "Beigin Out". The slogans carried by the RMG contingent were:

- \*FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
- \*FOR ARAB JEWISH UNITY AGAINST ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM AND ARAB REACTION

# down with zionist reaction

\*DOWN WITH THE RACIST JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE  
\*FOR A RED MIDDLE EAST

The chanting was reportedly sufficiently loud to spoil the dinner of a number of those lined up at the golden trough provided them by the local Zionist reaction.

With the fall of darkness the "well defended informational picket" marched off, leaving the swine to their feast, the cops to be divided between harrassing the working class and youth populations of Toronto and watching the hockey game, and the agents to writing their reports.

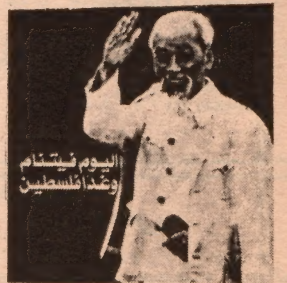
**JOE FLEXER**  
the OLD MOLE



## Free

## Viet Nam Today

## Palestine Tomorrow





# RIVER OF PEACE AND GUNS OF WAR THE PALESTINIANS' APPEAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

by : ANTOINE JBARA  
Translation by : M. KHURI

We've come to you today  
With doves on our palms  
And with Palestine, our country,  
Awakened from slumber.  
For twenty years we've waited  
And got words, mere words.  
Our wounds are smarting,  
Our bones are crushed.  
We've come to offer you,  
Roses from Iraq,  
Blossoms from Damascus,

The songs of the nightingale,  
The prayers of little birds,  
And all the nights of love.

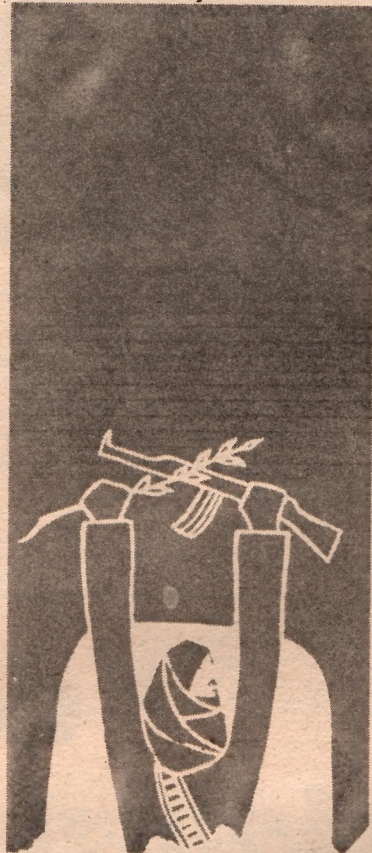
\* \* \*

For years we have lived,  
Dispersed and broken.  
We're a gallant people,  
We fully deserve all love.  
We're making a last try  
To seek conciliation,  
Do not force us to drop  
The olive branch we bear.

\* \* \*

We appeal to the world  
For a new behaviour.  
For ages we've lived  
On sand dunes and mountains,  
What if we prize the sands  
And value the willow trees ?  
What if my sister washes  
The bright stars of heaven ?  
Why do I see my granny  
Staring with open eyes ?  
And the corpse of my mother  
Quite naked to the skies ?

\* \* \*



We've seen the wanderings  
Of prophets in the wilderness  
The twinkling stars have trodden  
The sacred paths of our land.  
Our grievously-wronged people,  
Are a song of love and friendship  
They offer a loving hand  
To all peoples and countries  
Do not cut that loving hand.

\* \* \*

In the past we appealed  
With a sad and broken heart,  
To the nations of the world.  
But we were repulsed  
From their open door.  
Your conscience was not moved  
And crushing refugee life  
Weighed heavily upon us.  
Nation after nation  
Were welcomed with open arms  
But we were rejected.  
The pleas of our youth  
Of innocent women and children  
Left you quite unmoved.  
Then came our struggle  
The martyrs and the fighting  
The killed and the wounded.  
Fewer appeals were made  
And we checked our tears  
And the sound of the guns  
Spoke louder than words.

\* \* \*

Do not withhold  
Justice from our people,  
Do not crucify our wounds.  
We hate to be treated  
As wolves, or as birds of prey  
Or to be slaughtered

As lambs every day.  
All we're praying for  
Is that terror should cease  
That the river of peace should flow  
Through our sacred soil.  
Our plea is for justice and peace  
For a new way of thought  
All your threats in the past  
Of genocide and the cutting of hands  
Have produced nothing  
But the sound of guns  
And the drums of war.

THESE ARE THE PALESTINIANS  
"continue from page 6"

could be further from the truth.  
On numerous occasions, different Palestinian spokesmen have stated clearly their desire to live in peace with the Jewish inhabitants of the area. Abu Ammar (Yasser Arafat), chairman of the PLO said as long ago as 1968 :

Moslems and Christians are living side by side in the Arab countries. I believe that Jews have the same choice. In the past, they lived peacefully in Arab Palestine without being subject to any racial or religious discrimination. This situation remained till the emergence of Zionism. We intend to build our country with no racial or religious discrimination (Al Anwar, Beirut, 23 June, 1968).

An executive of the Palestine Liberation Organization spelled out unequivocally the "minimum acceptable" solution for the Palestinians. He realistically described the position of the Jewish population in a liberated Palestine :

- This (solution) is the setting-up of Palestine as a state in partnership, in which the Palestinian Arabs and the Jews who care to stay can live together as equal citizens, irrespective of religion, colour, or race. For the Palestine Jews opting for the proposal, this means identifying with Palestine, and its Arab environment, and therefore shedding Zionist associations and expansionist attitudes. For the Arabs, it means accepting the Jewish community and cooperating with it in democratic conditions - and this for the first time since the Balfour Declaration in 1917 (Speech made at a conference in Cyprus. Sept. 29-Oct. 4, 1969).

Recognizing the need for a solution based on justice for all, the Palestinian people ask the world community for support and assistance in their continuing struggle to regain their rights and determine their national destiny free from alien occupation. ■

"Resistance"

WE ALWAYS YEARN  
FOR IT THAT OLD WARM  
HOME, WHERE ALL  
COLOURS, ALL FAMILIAR  
FORMS AND LOVE  
INTERMINGLE WITH OUR  
NATIVE SOIL.

WHERE OUR YOUNG  
SIT AROUND THEIR  
GRANDFATHER,  
ATTENTIVELY LISTENING,  
ENRaptured BEYOND  
WORDS, TO HIS OLD  
TALES.

WHO, THEN, WHO HAS  
THE RIGHT TO UPROOT A  
MAN FROM HIS NATIVE  
HOME ?  
TELL ME WHO ?



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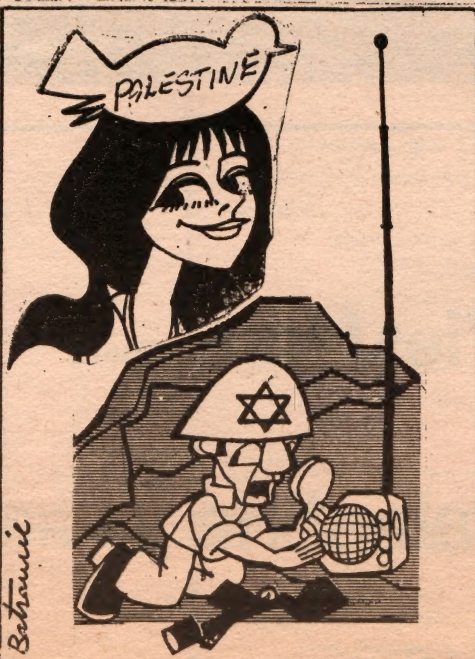
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